



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Montana State Library

<http://www.archive.org/details/dphhsnewsoct1996mont>



3 0864 1004 7934 7

MAR 13 1997

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59601



DPHHS NEWS

October 1996

MENTAL HEALTH MANAGED CARE PLAN PROGRESSING QUICKLY

Randy Poulsen, Addictive and Mental Disorders
Division Managed Care Bureau Chief

The Department of Public Health and Human Services' Mental Health Access Plan (MHAP), the first-in-the-nation program to integrate all state- and federally-funded mental health services in Montana under the management of a single contractor, is on track and shifting into high gear.

Early in August, after over one year of negotiating and waiting, the state received permission from the federal government to move ahead. Secretary Donna Shalala of the federal Department of Health and Human Services telephoned Governor Marc Racicot to tell him her agency had approved Montana's application for waivers of the Social Security Act. These waivers will, among other things, allow Montana to restrict Medicaid recipients to a single source, our managed care organization, for mental health services.

On August 12, we released a request for proposals (RFP), inviting organizations interested in contracting for operation of the MHAP to submit competitive proposals for this \$75 million per year program. The successful contractor is not expected to provide direct services, but will be required to arrange for all necessary and appropriate care for eligible members through existing mental health providers. If they can do so within the fixed amount the state will pay, they stand to profit based upon a performance evaluation review. Potential profit is capped at different levels, depending on the evaluation score. However, they will also be at risk for providing services if the state's payment proves inadequate.

In addition, the managed care contractor will do eligibility determination for non-Medicaid members, perform education and outreach, develop new services, maintain a rigorous quality assurance program, track client outcomes and more. Ten organizations, including Montana companies and large national companies, have said they intend to submit proposals.

The high level of interest in this contract was confirmed at the proposers' conference held in Helena on August 26, where representatives of most of the ten interested companies showed up armed with questions about the current delivery system, the RFP, and the state's requirements. They have their hands full—detailed proposals are due October 8.

The proposals will be turned over to an eleven-member evaluation committee for review. Included on the committee are mental health consumers and family members, providers, state staff, and a legislator. After spending long hours reviewing and comparing proposals, committee members will meet to reach a consensus agreement as to which proposal or proposals, if any, are acceptable and will make a recommendation to DPHHS Director Peter Blouke.

(Continued on Page 3. .)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October 1

Welfare reform begins: Flathead, Granite, Powell, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Madison, Richland, McCone, Garfield, Prairie, Custer, Powder River, Carter, Fallon, Wibaux, and Dawson counties.

October 1 - 3

Montana Public Health Association
Annual Conference
Holiday Inn — Great Falls
Contact: Dick Paulsen
(406) 444-3624

October 18 - 20

MT State Foster Adoptive Parents Assoc.
Annual Conference
Valley Christian School
Contact: Tina Peterson
(406) 523-4100

October 23 - 24

FAIM Statewide Advisory Council
Capitol Building — Rooms 413/415
Oct. 23 — 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Oct. 24 — 8:30 am - noon
Contact: Sherri Brandewie
(406) 444-1911

October 23 - 31

Red Ribbon Week
Contact: Ken Taylor
(406) 444-1202

October 24 - 26

Montana Conference on Mental Illness
Copper King Park Hotel — Butte
Contact: Rusty Redfield
(406) 444-9244

NOVEMBER

November 8

Governor's Council on Families
Aladdin Motor Inn, Room 114 — Helena
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Contact: Gary Curtis
(406) 444-9530

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Peter S. Blouke, Ph.D.

DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO BE FORMED



Peter S. Blouke, Ph.D.
DPHHS Director

A key recommendation of the Department of Public Health and Human Services Reorganization Advisory Council was that a standing department advisory council be established. The department concurs with this recommendation and is in the process of establishing the advisory council. Public participation in the evolution of the department and establishment of priorities continues to be a fundamental value of the DPHHS.

A department-wide advisory council with responsibility, input and oversight of overall department operations is necessary for a variety of reasons. Services provided by the department, either directly or indirectly, touch the lives of virtually every citizen of the state. In addition to the significant impact on the general health and social well-being of Montanans, programs administered by DPHHS also have a significant impact on the state's economy. Expenditures by the department account for approximately one-third of total state government spending.

Created by the Fifty-Fourth Legislature, DPHHS has completed the first phase of the reorganization process—the design and implementation of a state-level organizational structure. However, the far more difficult task of achieving the department's goal of a fully integrated system of public health and human service programs remains. This is a task that will be evolutionary in nature and require several years to fully implement. Given the size and scope of DPHHS operations, it is critical that the public be actively involved in major departmental policy decisions that affect how the department moves forward to achieve this goal.

Although the various programs within the agency have advisory councils whose membership includes consumers and are representative of the general public, these councils deal primarily with very program specific issues. For example, the Medicaid Advisory Council deals with Medicaid issues, the Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council deals with developmental disabilities issues, etc. Currently, there is no single advisory council with responsibility for department-wide oversight and coordination of services.

The mission of the new DPHHS Advisory Council will be to assist the department in the implementation of the following DPHHS goals:

- to assure that services are provided to consumers based on consumer need, rather than funding sources or federal categorical designation;
- to decentralize program administration based on a true partnership between state and local programs;
- to improve client access to services through elimination of administrative barriers and, to the extent possible, allow funding and resources to follow identified client needs; and
- to assure a logical relationship among programs with clearly delineated lines of communication, authority and accountability at all levels of program administration.

To fulfill its mission, the council will not be involved in the day-to-day administration or management of the department. Rather, this group will be involved with development of the major policy issues that will be required to implement the above goals. The council will be given a great deal of latitude in deciding what issues it wishes to examine; however, initially it is anticipated that it will focus primarily on three areas: 1) the evolution of the decentralization/devolution process; 2) the development and implementation of a performance-based system of program evaluation; and 3) issues relating to budget priorities and legislative initiatives.

Council membership will be limited to 20 individuals and will include representatives of the general public, consumers, service advocates, and elected officials. Its first meeting is anticipated to be later this month; more details will be announced in the newsletter as they become available.

The department expects to complete a contract with a managed care organization in mid-November, and hopes to begin implementation of the organization's program in December. The implementation phase will undoubtedly take several months before the MHAP is fully operational.

When it is in place, the MHAP will bring significant changes to the way mental health services are delivered in the state. In addition to Medicaid-eligible Montanans who need mental health treatment, the MHAP will serve any Montanan with a serious mental illness or severe emotional disturbance whose family income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. While almost 40% of Montanans meet this economic criteria, the number needing mental health services will be much smaller.

Nevertheless, the MHAP is a bold experiment. While several states have mental health managed care programs in place for Medicaid recipients, many, such as Colorado and Utah, have not tried it on a statewide basis. Some, such as Iowa and Massachusetts, have statewide programs, but until now no state has integrated both Medicaid and state-funded mental health services into a single managed care system. Montana will definitely be a trend-setter in mental health managed care.

For more information, contact Randy Poulsen at (406) 444-2706.

Classification Reminder

Classification staff in the Human Resources Office want to remind supervisors that retroactive dates for classification upgrades are effective the date a position description is submitted to Human Resources. The state Pay Plan Rules mandate that the effective date of the pay increase is the date that the new position description is submitted for review. Supervisors have been requesting that position descriptions be backdated for the purposes of retroactive pay. For consistency purposes, this is not allowed. Questions on this policy can be directed to Human Resources at (406) 444-3136.



Photo: Randy Bowsher

Cogswell Building employees enjoying the barbeque at the annual Cogswell picnic, held at the Little Red School House on August 23.

Since the DPHHS reorganization, employees from four former state agencies have been relocated together in the Cogswell Building. According to picnic organizer Gary Rose, "The event provided another opportunity for employees that pass in the hallways to get acquainted. I think everyone enjoyed the event, the food and especially the children's games, which were organized by Casey and Bob Clark." Rose also thanked over 45 employees who sponsored the picnic for their co-workers.

INTRODUCTIONS



Roland Mena, Program Director
Montana Chemical Dependency Center
Addictive and Mental Disorders Division

Location: 2500 Continental Drive, Butte, MT 59701
Telephone: (406) 496-5414
Fax: (406) 496-5437

Roland Mena was named program director of the Montana Chemical Dependency Center in August 1991. Previously, he was responsible for reorganizing residential chemical dependency services on the Galen Campus and the relocation of the program to Butte in July 1993.

Roland is currently responsible for the daily operations of the Montana Chemical Dependency Center, which provides detoxification, primary residential treatment and day treatment services.

He has also served on various committees and task forces, including the Criminal Justice Task Force, which was instrumental in implementing the current chemical dependency program at Montana State Prison.

Prior to the position he now holds, Roland attended the addictions studies program at the University of Minnesota. He has worked in the field of chemical dependency for the past 19 years, most of which have been in residential treatment programs that provide services to adolescents, adults and their families.

DPHHS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



Standing (L-R): Laurie Magill, Patty Smith, Beth McLaughlin, Kathy Battrick, Brenda Davidson.
Seated (L-R): Art Swanson, Diana Piccono, Human Resources Chief Virgil Dixon, Pamela Sourbeer.

Photo: Randy Bowsher

WENDY'S DAVE THOMAS PROMOTES HOMES FOR ALL KIDS

Bette Hall, Child and Family Services Division Administrative Officer

Dave Thomas, the easygoing chairman of the Wendy's International restaurant chain, came to Billings this summer to talk about kids who desperately need homes. Thomas, who was adopted when he was six weeks old, said, "If I hadn't had a family to care for me, I don't know where I would be today."

While in Billings, Thomas signed autographs, shook hands and hugged a number of Montana kids who were recently adopted or were awaiting adoption. He promoted Montana's *Treasure Book* and the 1-888-WE-R-KIDS adoption information number, as well as taping an adoption public service announcement that will air statewide. *The Treasure Book* was developed by DPHHS in partnership with Montana Catholic Social Services and the Montana Adoption Resource Center. This publication is comprised of short descriptions and pictures of Montana children who are legally available for adoption. Funded in part by the Kellogg Foundation's Families for Kids Initiative, it is designed to assist prospective parents with questions about how the adoption process works. It is available in public libraries, churches and local DPHHS offices around the state. More information about *The Treasure Book* can be obtained by calling 1-888-WE-R-KIDS.

A press conference was also held to draw public attention to the more than 700 Montana kids who have been in our foster care system for more than two years, including 100 in Billings alone. Lieutenant Governor Dennis Rehberg spoke about the activities of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in the state, which gave Montana a \$1.6 million grant last year to reform the state's child welfare system. DPHHS Director Peter Blouke also made a presentation, which primarily focused on *The Treasure Book*.

In 1992, Thomas formed the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to help raise awareness about the high numbers of children waiting in foster homes to be adopted. The foundation has three major goals:

- To educate Americans about the benefits of adoption;
- To make adoption more affordable by helping the public and private sectors start innovative programs; and
- To reduce red tape involved in the process.

Since its inception, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has also encouraged employers throughout the United States to add adoption assistance to their employee benefit packages as Wendy's has done. That means paid leave for employees who are adopting a child and some extra financial assistance when possible. Wendy's also offers additional financial help for employees who adopt special needs kids.

Thomas' foundation is particularly focused on the more than 100,000 children in the child welfare system who are waiting for homes, including children who are older, siblings who want to be adopted together, children from minority cultures and children who are physically or mentally challenged. Thomas believes that "no child is unadoptable."

The foundation is also working with companies and organizations to raise the profile of adoption as a viable option for building families. In addition, it is working to educate government leaders about the need for changes in the adoption system.

Thomas' visit to Billings was a giant step in the right direction to make the public aware of Montana's children who are waiting for permanent, loving families.

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION HELPS WELFARE REFORM PARTICIPANTS

Jan Paulsen, JOBS Program Officer

The Department of Public Health and Human Services has been awarded a \$4000 grant from the Office of Public Instruction to implement a cross-training project for Adult Basic Educators, JOBS Case Managers and FAIM Coordinators. This project attempts to provide a forum conducive to information exchange and collaboration with the common belief that education can be a vital step toward self-sufficiency for welfare reform participants. Workshop attendees will focus on networking between community agencies who are serving the same constituents so that services to them will not be duplicated. For example, a community may have representatives from the JOBS program, Human Resource Development Councils, and County Offices of Human Services all working on employability plans for FAIM participants, as well as approaching potential work sites for that person. This project will help ensure that a more streamlined approach benefitting all parties will be taken.

During this time of transition to FAIM, discussion about the impact of welfare reform on communities and the education system is also important.

Billings, Bozeman and Butte have been selected to host these workshops. Flathead Community College was approved in a separate grant to host a coordinated project. These events are expected to take place either this fall or next spring. A similar project was successfully held last year in Livingston, Havre and Miles City.

For more information, contact Jan Paulsen at (406) 444-4139.

DPHHS PRODUCES TELEVISION SHOW

Brian LaMoure, Senior and Long-Term Care Division Administrative Coordinator

The Department of Public Health and Human Services Office on Aging, which is part of the Senior and Long-Term Care Division, has entered into a partnership with TCI Cable and Video Express Productions of Helena to produce and air an innovative television program on issues that effect Montana's elderly. The show is called *"Aging Horizons"* and is aired statewide daily on either the local C-TV or Discovery Channel.

"Aging Horizons" has evolved from a ten-minute to a half-hour show and has featured our own Director Peter Blouke, Senior and Long Term Care Division Administrator Mike Hanshew and Aging Services Coordinator Charlie Rehbein among others as guests. In addition, we are always looking for additional presenters... maybe you? If you have a topic of interest to senior citizens, or have some pre-packaged short videos or public service announcements on 3/4" video tape, call the program's producer, Brian LaMoure, at (406) 444-7782.

The show is hosted by Senior and Long-Term Care Division Insurance Counseling and Assistance Coordinator Bev Robinson. Guests are interviewed by Senior and Long-Term Care Division Legal Rights Attorney Rick Bartos.

The C-TV schedule for Kalispell, Missoula, Billings, Butte and Great Falls is 6:30 am and 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday; 8:00 pm Friday through Sunday. The Discovery Channel airtime for all other markets statewide is between 6:00 am and 10:00 am daily. Check your local listings for specific times.

Montana State Hospital Personnel Officer Dan Evans was killed September 5 in a bicycle accident. Evans, 39, had worked for the state of Montana since 1991 as personnel officer for Montana State Prison, Montana State Hospital, and Montana Developmental Center. He is survived by his wife, Julie, and two sons, David and Jacob, of Warm Springs. Memorials may be sent to: Education Trust Fund for David and Jacob Evans, c/o Norwest Bank, 120 West Park Ave., Anaconda, MT 59711. We extend our deepest sympathy to Dan's family.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: MONTANA CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Linda Fillinger, Child and Family Services Division Child Care Specialist



When the Department of Public Health and Human Services was created last year, several pieces of the state's child care and children's nutritional programs which were scattered among three different agencies converged to form the Early Childhood Services Unit, which is part of the Child and Family Services Division. With Montana's welfare reform program in full swing and the new block granting of child care imminent, this is a timely restructuring.

Welfare reform will require that many of Montana's approximately 10,000 welfare recipients enter the employment market. Child care assistance must be provided to help these often economically fragile families achieve lasting self-sufficiency; consequently, child care providers must be found to meet this increased need for child care. The child care assistance programs currently provide child care assistance to low-income families who are either working or involved in activities designed to help them become employed. Many of the working families receiving child care assistance pay a portion of their own child care costs based on a sliding-fee scale. Currently, in some of these programs, there is unlimited federal funding available to pay for child care services. However, the state is presently required to match this unlimited federal funding with approximately 30% state funding.

Under the new block granting of child care programs, which begins October 1, 1996, unlimited federal funding vanishes and is replaced with a limited amount of federal funding, called the "Child Care and Development Fund". There is no state matching requirement to tap into most of this federal funding. However, in order for states to access about one-third of the new available funds, states are required to maintain their 1995 general fund level of spending and match the federal funds with nearly 30% state general fund.

Frank Kromkowski, supervisor of the DPHHS Early Childhood Services Unit, said, "It is essential that Montana tap into all funds available in order to serve the increased child care needs brought about by welfare reform. Therefore, it is imperative that we maintain our 1995 child care general fund expenditures and reserve enough general fund to match to the new funds."

The Child and Adult Care Food Program provides food reimbursements to child care providers serving Montana children. These reimbursements are vital to improving the nutrition of young children in child care, as well as attracting new recruits to the child care provider field and keeping current providers in business. Quality and availability of child care providers are dependent on this subsidy program.

In addition to Kromkowski, the Early Childhood Services Unit includes Tom Rippingale, supervisor of the Child and Adult Care Food Program; Annette Peterson, Chris Hettinger, Cindy Beyer, Patti Russ, Wayne Post, Becky Fleming-Siebenaler and Linda Fillinger. The unit is committed to working together to serve the child care and nutritional needs of young Montana children.

For more information, call (406) 444-1828.

News and information about the programs and people in the Department of Public Health and Human Services will be presented in this monthly newsletter. This edition was produced by a committee of employees from various areas of the agency. The Newsletter Committee welcomes your suggestions and comments. Ideas may be sent by regular mail or ZipMailed to the DPHHS ZipMail Box.

DPHHS attempts to provide reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the department. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For more information, call (406) 444-2596 or 1-800-253-4091.

Newsletter Committee members are: Randy Bowsher, Kim Brown, Anastasia Burton, Gail Clifford, Lori Getter, Beth McLaughlin and Jane Smilie.

TO REPORT A CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR TO REQUEST BEING ADDED TO THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST, PLEASE CONTACT GAIL CLIFFORD, (406) 444-2584.

3260 copies of this document were published at an estimated cost of \$.40 per copy. The total cost of \$1304 includes \$943 for printing and \$361 for distribution. Publication and mailing assistance was provided by the employees of Helena Industries, Inc.



6910

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Helena, MT
Permit No. 246**

STATE LIBRARY
JUSTICEW BUILDING
DEADHEAD

